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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 11 September 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, 10 September 2015, the General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favour of the resolution on raising the flags of non-member observer States at the United Nations, namely, the flags of the State of Palestine and the Holy See. It is without a doubt that yesterday's historic vote reaffirms the legitimacy of the national aspirations of the Palestinian people, their existence among the nations of the world and their right to self-determination in their own independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We realize that raising our flag will end neither the occupation nor the cruel subjugation of the Palestinian people, but it will help restore some hope to the Palestinian people and their leadership as they continue on the peaceful, non-violent, political and legal path to fulfilling their rights. This is ever so important, especially given the deteriorating situation on the ground in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's illegal actions and practices.

In this regard, it is with great sadness that we must include in our letter today the tragic news that Riham Dawabsha, 27 years of age, has become the third member of her family who has succumbed to her wounds and died as a result of the heinous terrorist arson attack that engulfed her home in the West Bank town of Duma in flames on 31 July. Riham, the mother of 18-month-old Ali, who was burned alive, and wife of Saad, who died of his wounds on 8 August, sustained third-degree burns on 90 per cent of her body. She fought for her life in a hospital bed for five weeks until her condition took a turn for the worse. Riham is survived by her son, Ahmad, 4 years of age, the only living member of the family, who lies in a hospital bed suffering from massive burns to his small body. Ahmad, like so many Palestinian children, is now an orphan without a mother, father or siblings — a fate that, sadly, many more Palestinian children will suffer if Israeli settler terrorists are not held accountable for their crimes.

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We reiterate our condemnation of this heinous terrorist arson attack and continue to hold the Government of Israel responsible for the deaths of these innocent civilians as well as the culture of hate and violence it continues to foster through the imposition of its endless, illegal policies and practices, which include the transfer of illegal settlers to illegal settlements throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Up until today, no arrests have been made in the terrorist arson attack, even though the Israeli Government has publicly confirmed that the perpetrators have been identified. The lack of accountability granted by the occupying Power to Israeli settlers who carry out terrorist attacks will only further incite the culture of violence and hatred that has already been fomented against Palestinian civilians and their properties, resulting in undeterred settler violence and the continued killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, including children.

Besides the impunity that Israeli settlers enjoy as a result of the Israeli occupying forces, the Palestinian people also continue to be harmed and killed by Israeli occupying forces. Such excessive and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli occupying forces can clearly be witnessed in Nabi Saleh, a West Bank village in which, every Friday, a non-violent demonstration is coordinated to protest against the stealing of land and water resources by the neighbouring illegal Israeli settlement of "Halamish". During a demonstration held on 28 August 2015, the world witnessed the brute force by Israeli occupying forces against children when a masked Israeli soldier placed an already injured Mohammed Basim Tamimi, 12 years of age, in a headlock with an assault rifle to his cheek. The terrified Mohammed was freed only as a result of the efforts of Palestinian women and girls who were relatives of Mohammed, who struggled with the Israeli soldier to free the young boy. Even though not all instances of it are photographed and recorded on video for the world to see, this sort of abuse and violence against Palestinian children is perpetuated, regularly and systematically, as part of a policy by Israel, the occupying Power. Such is the case in the occupied Gaza Strip, where, just last week, the child of a fisherman was shot and injured by Israeli occupying forces near the shores of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip. The young child who was shot, Bilal Abu Amro, is only 11 years old. Regrettably, this is not the first incident, as Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip continue to be targeted and attacked by Israeli occupying forces on a regular basis, further infringing on their livelihoods and threatening the economic survival of their families.

As the violations against Palestinian children continue to multiply, we continue to insist again that the Israeli Government, the Israeli occupying forces and Israeli settler militias belong on the list of grave violators of child rights in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, and we will not relent in calling for such listing in the face of ongoing violations and crimes against our innocent and defenceless children.

Moreover, in other parts of Occupied Palestine where peaceful demonstrations take place on a regular basis, Israeli occupying forces display the same type of contempt for Palestinian lives. This is definitely the case in the Palestinian town of Bait Jala, where, every Sunday after mass, Palestinian Christians, led by a revered church leader, Patriarch Michel Sabbah, peacefully protest against Israel's expansionist Wall, which cuts deep into Palestinian land. This past Sunday, 6 September, images of medics helping a nun injured by Israeli tear gas clearly

demonstrated that Israeli occupying forces target Palestinian civilians regardless of whether they are men, women, children, elderly, disabled or Muslim or Christian.

Indisputably, the above-mentioned violations are in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and in contempt of the will of the international community. We call again upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act immediately to end Israel's impunity and resolve this conflict, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Moreover, since Israel, the occupying Power, has so evidently forfeited its responsibility under international humanitarian law to protect the people under its occupation, we continue to call upon the international community to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. The international community cannot continue to remain paralysed in resolving this issue, as that will only contribute to the spreading of more conflict and extremism in our region and undermine faith in the rule of law and the international system and in the prospects for peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 551 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 August 2015 (A/ES-10/688-S/2015/649), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 14 September 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your urgent attention to the rising tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem. The illegal actions and constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, including in particular by right-wing Israeli government officials, extremist settlers and religious zealots, against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places are aggravating already high tensions, religious sensitivities and the fragile situation on the ground, threatening to ignite religious conflict and further destabilize the region, which is already experiencing unprecedented instability and upheaval.

For two consecutive days, extremist Israelis escorted by occupying forces broke into Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (Al-Haram Al-Sharif), the third holiest site in Islam, in Occupied East Jerusalem. Israeli occupying forces injured and detained Palestinian worshippers, prevented the entry of Palestinian worshippers and instigated violent confrontations, using tear gas, stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets. At least 110 Palestinian civilians, including worshippers, Mosque guards, reporters and cameramen, have been injured, and occupying forces obstructed ambulances from reaching the injured. Twenty of the injured have been transferred to the hospital, with three in critical condition who suffered injuries to the head and chest areas, including Anas Siyam, a Palestinian boy, who was hit with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the chest. Sheikh Omar Al-Kiswani, director of the compound, was also assaulted by Israeli occupying forces. Reports indicate that an elderly man was shot in the eye with a rubber-coated steel bullet and Tamer Khalaf, age 29, was assaulted and sprayed with toxic gas prior to being detained by occupying forces.

In this volatile context, on Sunday morning, 13 September, in an act of incitement and attempt to breach the sanctity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif, right-wing Israeli Minister of Agriculture Uri Ariel entered Al-Haram Al-Sharif, escorted by

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heavily armed Israeli occupying forces and more than 30 extremist Israeli settlers. Again, today, 145 extremist Israeli settlers broke into Al-Haram Al-Sharif via the Moroccan Gate, provoking worshippers and vandalizing the Mosque. Equally disturbing, Israeli occupying forces damaged Al-Haram Al-Sharif, breaking windows and partially burning prayer rugs due to gun fire inside the Mosque. In addition, Israel, the occupying Power, has imposed restrictions on Palestinians, denying almost all worshippers entry into the Holy Site, including children and women. Moreover, last week, Israeli War Minister Moshe Yaalon denied access to two Palestinian groups who wished to worship at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. Such provocative incidents only intensify and exacerbate religious sensitivities and the extremely fragile situation on the ground.

As we witness the persistent deterioration of conditions on the ground due to Israel's other illegal actions throughout Occupied Palestine and against the Palestinian civilian population, and in the absence of peace prospects, we are compelled again to provide a caution regarding the far-reaching risks of these provocations and incitement at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. We also underscore in this regard the recent statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, who stressed, inter alia, that: "Political and religious leaders have a responsibility to act against extremists, who undermine the rule of law."

At the same time, we regret to inform you that illegal actions overtly intended to assert Israeli control over the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound also continue unabated, despite the calls and appeals against such actions. We firmly reject any provocative plans to spatially and temporally divide the compound. We reiterate the imperative of respect for the long-standing arrangements and historic status quo at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, as has been agreed to and respected by all parties for decades, and we recall the determination of the Security Council that all such measures by Israel, the occupying Power, "to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the recent 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith".

In this context, we reiterate that all illegal Israeli actions at Al-Haram Al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem are in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions. We appeal to the international community to act in word and deed to compel respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for all of its obligations under international law.

The Security Council, in accordance with its primary Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, must give urgent attention to these disturbing developments and must call for an end to all provocations and incitement at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem and throughout the rest of Occupied Palestine by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist Israeli settlers. It is clear that such actions are aimed at illegally and forcibly further entrenching Israeli control over Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem and must be rejected unequivocally. Moreover, it is clear that such actions risk the further destabilization of this fragile situation with unforeseen, dangerous consequences

that must be averted and must instead be replaced with serious efforts to calm the situation and revive the prospects for peace on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the international consensus on the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 552 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 September 2015 (A/ES-10/689-S/2015/703) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 22 September 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to our previous letter, dated 14 September 2015 (A/ES-10/690-S/2015/707), I must continue to draw your urgent attention to the dangerously rising tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem. The illegal policies and the constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist settlers against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places, especially at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (Haram al-Sharif), continue to exacerbate tensions and religious sensitivities between the Palestinian people and the occupying Power and risk further destabilization of an already very fragile situation on the ground.

Having said the above, today we bring to your immediate attention the chances for the situation to deteriorate even further, as Israel, the occupying Power, intensifies its incitement and provocation as Palestinian Muslims prepare to commemorate Eid al-Adha, which starts on Thursday, 24 September 2015. In that regard, while the international community, including the Security Council, has called upon the occupying Power to exercise restraint, refrain from provocative actions and rhetoric, and uphold the historic status quo at Haram al-Sharif — in word and in practice, the occupying Power, along with its extremist settlers, has done the exact opposite. In fact, the Prime Minister of Israel has ordered that additional checkpoints be erected throughout Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as calling for the deployment of an additional 800 reservists, along with thousands of so-called border police, in the city. In addition, as of yesterday, Israeli occupying forces have imposed restrictions on the entry of Muslims to Al-Aqsa compound, closing all but three of the compound's gates, as well as allowing only men over 40 years of age to enter the compound, all while completely barring women from entering. Israel's latest provocations, incitements and violations of the Palestinian people's human rights, including their right to worship, will surely do nothing to "restore calm", but rather create the perfect recipe for clashes and violence to ensue and intensify.

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Clearly, the situation is still extremely tense following last week's fierce attacks by Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers against Palestinian worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. During those attacks, the occupying forces used excessive force to prevent the entry of Palestinian worshippers and caused serious injuries to hundreds of worshippers through their use of tear gas, stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets. Moreover, the excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians caused clashes to erupt in many East Jerusalem neighbourhoods and villages, in which many more Palestinian civilians were injured, including Saly Yousif Muhessien, 13 years of age, who was injured when she was shot in the neck with a rubber-coated steel bullet. Such gruesome violations against children will only continue as the occupying Power continues to enjoy a culture of impunity, which has shielded its forces from being held accountable for crimes that they have committed against Palestinian civilians, including children. This culture of impunity is evident in the outrageous request by the Israeli Prime Minister, calling upon Israel's Attorney General to "allow" occupying forces to employ open-fire regulations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including sniper fire and the use of rifles fitted with sniper scopes, at Palestinian stone throwers. In addition to the above, over the past week Israeli occupying forces have also detained more than 150 Palestinians, the majority ranging from 13 to 20 years of age.

We continue to reiterate that all such illegal Israeli actions at Haram al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem are in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions.

Moreover, we believe that all such acts of incitement against holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as acts of the ongoing and deliberate provocations against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, whether by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers, warrant serious and immediate attention by the international community, including by the Security Council, in line with its primary duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. We call upon the international community to act with urgency and responsibility, especially in the light of the upcoming Eid al-Adha holiday, to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in Occupied East Jerusalem and to bring a halt to the occupying Power's violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and to immediately withdraw its forces from around Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Before concluding, I regret also to inform you of the killing today of Hadeel Al-Hashlamon, 18 years of age, who was shot three times by Israeli occupying forces at a checkpoint in Al-Khalil (Hebron) and left to bleed on the pavement for approximately 30 minutes before she received treatment. Also today, Diaa' Al-Talahmah, 21 years of age, was killed during clashes with Israeli occupying forces in the village of Khursa, near Dora in southern Al-Khalil. These latest killings are only two of the hundreds of examples of deliberate and brutal killings by Israeli occupying forces, which continue to further heighten tensions and contribute to fomenting deep anger and agitation among the Palestinian people, as they confirm Israel's total disregard for Palestinian lives. The international community must take

measures to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, is held accountable for all such crimes and is compelled to cease all of its violations against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 553 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 September 2015 (A/ES-10/690-S/2015/707), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
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